



## The Virginia Defense Force

# Bugler



March 2012 Volume 4 Issue 1

## On Mission

*M*ake a Difference! That is our 2012 mantra and one we should all strive to all accomplish this year. At our Commander's Conference in February plans were laid out on how we, as an organization as well as individuals, can make a difference with the VDF and across our great state of Virginia.



**Major General John Taylor**

Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, told us at the Commander's Conference that he is quite pleased with all of our efforts, and is relying on us to do even more. Through continued—and new—training we can accomplish our assigned tasks by the Virginia National Guard, which are growing. Remember, the Guard really does rely on us and it is our job to stand up to the tasks!

I would like to take a moment to reiterate that it is more than critical that each and every one completes their State-Active-Duty ready training as soon as possible. Without your IS100, IS200, IS700 and IS800b courses through FEMA, you are not qualified to respond with your unit. All of these courses are found easily on our website at <http://www.vdf.virginia.gov/vsdftraining.html>. If you have not already completed this training, I urge to do so right away.

The VDF reorganization to a civil affairs structure is underway. It is through this new structure that we are becoming an even more viable resource for the Virginia National Guard and the commonwealth. In 2010 alone, the VDF donated approximately 58,850 man hours in service. We are sure to reach far beyond this number in 2012 by Making a Difference in everything we do!

Lastly, encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to join you in the Virginia Defense Force. We know what a great thing it is that we do — spread the word and. . .

## Updates from Active Detachment

*A*fter a computer network crash at the end of the year, Active Detachment is just about back on track and everyone's patience is greatly appreciated. With your help, we have been able to regain all that was lost and make some big improvements in the process! Soon, there will be an S-1 section on our website to further assist you with your reporting to headquarters.

### VDF ID Cards

All ID card applications that have been received up to, and including, February 2012 have been issued. If you have not received your ID card but have previously submitted an application, please check your email. Roughly half of all applications are rejected due to incorrect photographs, missing address information, or missing signatures. It is very important to be diligent in completed an ID card application completely in order for a card to be issued in a timely fashion.

### Other Bits of Information

The website continues to be a successful recruiting tool. In just the past 3 weeks [March 9, 2012], we have received 79 new inquiries on becoming a member of the VDF. This continues to be one of the fastest ways to make contact with a potential new member. Please spread the word about our website!

We have launched the official Virginia Defense Force Facebook page. There you can find information on what's going on with the VDF. <https://www.facebook.com/OfficialVDFPage>. *This Facebook page is the only one approved by the Virginia Defense Force.*

## Table of Contents

VDF tests comms caps at Fort Picket. . . . .	2
VDF and Social Media . . . . .	3
VDF Tuition Discounts at Liberty . . . . .	4
Chief of Staff Message. . . . .	4
VDF Artifacts Needed for Museum . . . . .	5
Generational Diversity . . . . .	5
NCO of the Year . . . . .	6
2012 Commander's Conference . . . . .	7



## Make a Difference



## Virginia Defense Force tests communications capabilities at Fort Pickett

*By Cotton Puryear, Virginia Department of Military Affairs*

FORT PICKETT, Va. — The Virginia Defense Force tested communication capabilities and provided a critical link to the Virginia Guard Joint Operations Center Feb. 11 when more than 120 Canadian Army Reserve personnel inprocessed into Fort Pickett. The event was part of an exercise to test the communication and administrative systems needed if Virginia were to receive military personnel from out of state in an emergency response situation. Formally known as the Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, and Integration, or JRSOI, the process makes sure that proper accountability of personnel and equipment is established when additional forces came into the state.

“This is a beta test for the remote JRSOI,” said Lt. Col. David Weisnicht, Fort Pickett’s full-time director of plans, training and security. “We are simulating that we are at an airfield where we are receiving troops coming into the commonwealth.”

Fort Pickett has the mission for fixed-based JRSOI, and even though the exercise took place at the Blackstone Army Airfield adjacent to Fort Pickett, the systems tested could be used at locations across Virginia, Weisnicht said. The Canadian forces were conducting planned training at Fort Pickett, but their arrival provided an opportunity to add some realism to the exercise.

“Getting an accurate number of boots on the ground is a very difficult thing,” he said, but added that this exercise helps test the systems that need to be in place to establish the accountability.

About 16 members of the Virginia Defense Force from the Highland Brigade and Lafayette Brigade provided personnel and communications support for the exercise. The VDF provided a mobile command post with capabilities over seven different types of communication networks including digital and analog high frequency radio, as well as Incident Management Assistance Teams.

The IMATs operate the mobile Tactical Communication Packages with wireless internet and satellite phone capabilities and were communicating with the Virginia Guard’s Joint Operations Center in Sandston to provide status reports and incident updates.

With the voice and data capabilities provided by the Virginia Defense Force, accountability information was quickly transmitted back to the Virginia Guard’s Joint



Members of the Virginia Defense Force operate a mobile command post with capabilities over seven different types of communication networks including digital and analog high frequency radio Feb. 11 at the Blackstone Army Airfield near Fort Pickett. Using the MCP and Incident Management Assistance Teams operating the mobile Tactical Communication Packages with wireless internet and satellite phone capabilities, the VDF maintained communications with the Virginia Guard’s Joint Operations Center in Sandston to provide status reports and incident updates. *(Photo by Cotton Puryear, Virginia Department of Military Affairs)*

Operations Center in Sandston. The test of the communications capability was also part of the Guard quarterly test of different communication resources used during emergency response operations.

The IMAT teams receive specialized training on the equipment and are required to complete four Incident Command System training courses that are part of the National Incident Management System, explained Chief Warrant Officer Joseph Taylor Wallace, a liaison officer between the VDF and the JOC. They are also required to be certified in Web EOC, the online emergency management information system used by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and other response organizations in the state.

*(continued on next page)*



## Virginia Defense Force tests communications

cont'd from previous page



Members of the Virginia Defense Force inprocess a Canadian soldier Feb. 11 at the Blackstone Army Airfield near Fort Pickett as part of a beta test for communication and administrative systems needed if Virginia were to receive military personnel from out of state to support the Virginia National Guard during an emergency response situation. As part of the exercise, active duty and reserve Canadian Army personnel coming to Fort Pickett for Exercise Southbound Trooper processed through a reception station in order to verify personnel rosters and accountability. (Photo by Cotton Puryear, Virginia Department of Military Affairs)

During their monthly drills, IMAT personnel exercise the TacPaks in order to make sure they function properly and are ready for service in a state active duty situation. Members of the VDF often bring civilian and military experience to their positions in the all-volunteer organization. Warrant Officer Jesse Bryant of Big Island, who serves as the communications officer for the VDF's 24th Battalion in Lynchburg, has served in the VDF for more than a year and a half. A ham radio enthusiast who also served eight years in the Navy, he has experience with radios and electronics, but the VDF provides an opportunity to work with newer technology. "I am learning, and I get extra training that I don't have to pay for when I drill with the VDF," he said.

Bryant also said that serving in the VDF provided a bond that he enjoys and missed since he left the Navy.



Reprinted from <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/virginiaguard/>

## VDF and Social Media

Social media—Facebook, Twitter, Linked In, websites, etc.—are an ever-increasing format to express yourself individually and for companies and organizations to inform the public and promote themselves. The VDF and its members are not immune from this and we are embracing it. As VDF members, we must always remember—and practice—restraint on what we say and what images we post online. As a military-based organization it is paramount that we all keep what we post within proven guidelines that the Virginia National Guard and all service branches practice. Adversaries worldwide troll sites of all types searching for any type of security they breach and exploit—VDF is not immune from this either.

Below are ways we can maintain integrity for the VDF and for ourselves:

1. Never post dates and places of VDF drills, training or missions. VDF members are notified verbally and/or electronically through their units of this information. If you are responsible for disseminating this information to your troops, please use "less-than-public" means to do so. This type of information is not to be made available for

the public unless first authorized by the VDF PAO.

2. Practice military good conduct! Social media is not the arena to complain or brow-beat an instance that may have occurred. There are established proper channels within the VDF to be followed in these circumstances.
3. Check your photos before you post! Proper uniform dress and character should be what you display online.
4. Remember, we are not an armed force, nor will we be. The promotion of weapons use, sale, or trade is strictly prohibited.
5. If you are unsure if what you want to post is within accepted guidelines, contact the PAO for guidance.

Good practice in anything takes time and guidance. The points above are the "big-4" that you are expected to follow. We are a part of this State's force; we are representatives of the Governor; we are respected by the Virginia National Guard and they "see" us.

The official VDF Social Media and Public Affairs Policies will be published in April.

We are the Virginia Defense Force – We Make A Difference – Embrace It!



## Virginia Defense Force Tuition discounts at Liberty

*By Captain White, Virginia Defense Force*

VDF HEADQUARTERS — Liberty University has extended their Military Benefits to VDF personnel. Liberty is the only university in the Commonwealth that considers the VDF troops as military personnel for purposes of tuition discounts and military benefits. Discounts are available for both graduate and undergraduate online courses. Undergraduate rates, which can be up to \$342 per hour and Graduate rates which can be up to \$476 per hour, are discounted to \$250 per hour through this program. If the VDF soldier takes two classes in the same semester, Liberty will waive the \$175 technology fee. Additionally, for each three hour undergraduate class, Liberty will give the soldier \$100 for books, up to \$400 per semester. A semester may be comprised of up to three eight sub-terms.

To apply for admission, go to the Liberty University Online webpage at [www.luonline.com](http://www.luonline.com) and click on "Apply

Now" and follow the instructions provided. You may also apply for admission by speaking with an Admissions Counselor, 1-800-424-9595. If you a VDF member, a letter from your Commanding Officer verifying your status should be submitted to be eligible for the benefits. If you are prior service, send a copy of your DD214 either by facsimile at 434.455.1287 or e-mail a copy to [LUOmilitary@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOmilitary@liberty.edu).

These benefits are excellent for our current troops and knowledge of these benefits should be disseminated for both retention and recruitment purposes. We have our own CPT Beth White to thank for taking the steps necessary to secure recognition of our status with Liberty University and for the resultant benefits. If you have additional questions, please contact CPT White at 434.592.3809 or [blwhite@liberty.edu](mailto:blwhite@liberty.edu).

## A Message from our Chief of Staff



By the time you read this, we will have since passed into 2012. Before focusing on the opportunities in this new year, 2011 was a very good year for the Virginia Defense Force (VDF). Regardless of the task or mission that came our way, we as a professional cadre of military volunteers provided the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) and The Adjutant General (TAG) with creditable response capabilities either in support of an exercise or in aiding in Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA). The relationship between the Joint Forces Headquarters and the VDF has never been stronger and we will continue to build upon our successes as we seek to exploit new opportunities to extend our range of capabilities. Foremost in 2012 is our reorganization under a civil affairs force construct. This initiative will allow us to focus on providing tailored response packages to meet the growing DSCA needs of the DMA. As a critical provider of command and control capabilities for the Virginia National Guard, we will not only strengthen our current capabilities, but more importantly extend our support to new mission areas. Also, over the next several months, you will hear about new initiatives in the VDF to enhance our operational readiness.

It is a professional honor to serve with you as we achieve new levels of operational readiness in 2012.

We truly have a very special calling – “*Virginians serving Virginia.*”

Very Respectfully,  
Justin P. Carlitti Sr.  
COL (VA)

## VDF Artifacts Needed for New Museum

As Virginians, we are all aware of the unique military history of our Commonwealth. Now the Virginia National Guard Historical Society is in the process of building a new museum on Fort Pickett to exhibit that history. The mission of the museum is to preserve the material heritage of the Virginia National Guard and its militia antecedents, extending back to colonial times. The museum, which will instruct Virginia Army and Air Force Guardsmen in their history of service to the state and the nation, will also be open to the general public.

A part of this museum will relate the history of the Virginia Defense Force and its predecessors, the Virginia Volunteers of World War I and the Virginia Protective Force and Virginia State Guard of World War II. In order to showcase fully this part of Virginia's history, the VANG

Historical Society is seeking donations of any items relating to the VDF and these earlier organizations. The society needs uniforms (field and service,) insignia, equipment, photographs, books and any other material that reflects their service. If you have any items that you or family members have used in your service to the commonwealth, please consider donating these to the museum. As a non-profit, educational 501 (c) (3) organization all such donations are tax deductible. In order to keep the Society from receiving numerous duplications of items, it is requested that you contact the VDF historian, COL Dennis Mroczkowski, prior to sending any materials to the Society. COL Mroczkowski can be contacted at (757) 870-5834, or by email at [m4ski@comcast.net](mailto:m4ski@comcast.net).



## Generational Diversity

By MAJ (VA) S. Rivers Thompson, Diversity Officer, [diversity.officer@vdfmail.us](mailto:diversity.officer@vdfmail.us)

Did you know that members of the Virginia Defense Force can be between the ages of 16 and 75 years?

Another slice of diversity that is not always included in typical diversity discussions is generational diversity. A generation is a group of people defined by age boundaries. They share similar experiences growing up and their attitudes and values about work-related topics tend to be similar. There are also variations within each generation but generalized characteristics and core values are identifiable.

Researchers have divided today's workforce into four generations: Veterans/Seniors, born 1920-1945; Boomers, born 1946-1964; Generation X, born 1965-1980 and Millennials, born 1981-2000. The beginning and end points are approximations and people born on the edge of these divisions may exhibit traits from both groups. Which generation is yours? What has influenced you? What has influenced people you work with?

Take a look at some major life impacting events in the next column. Where were you when they happened? How do they impact persons of different ages?

World War II  
The Korean War  
The Atomic Bomb  
Duck and Cover Drills at school  
Cuban Missile Crisis  
Assassination of President Kennedy  
The Vietnam War & the Draft  
Assassination of Martin Luther King  
The Arms Race  
Recession  
The Cold War  
The Berlin Wall  
Man on the Moon  
Operation Just Cause  
The Iran hostage Crisis  
The First Gulf War  
September 11  
Iraq  
Afghanistan  
Earthquakes  
Hurricanes  
Computers  
Cell Phones  
Internet







## Citation

### THE VIRGINIA DEFENSE FORCE 2011 NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR

The Virginia Defense Force has selected Staff Sgt. Milton Chen of Charlottesville as the 2011 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. In a ceremony held Dec. 17, 2011, Maj. Gen. John Taylor, commander of the VDF, honored Chen and presented him with the award that recognizes outstanding duty performance, knowledge of mission, civic involvement, volunteer hours and completion of various skill-based schools.

Competitors from all over the commonwealth must be nominated by their unit command and compete at the battalion and brigade level before appearing at a Division NCO Board in Richmond.

Chen serves as 1st Sergeant for Charlottesville-based Company C, 33rd Battalion. He is qualified in several of the nine response packages offered by the VDF including Incident Management Assistance Teams and Shelter Assistance Liaison Teams. He is also Military Emergency Management Specialist qualified.

Chen credits his experience in the VDF with honing his leadership and training skills which he puts to use as a Line-X franchise owner. "My experience in dealing with people as a business owner has helped me greatly in my leadership role in the State Guard and the converse is true as well," Chen said. "I'm a much better teacher, listener and leader in my business and in the community because of my VDF experience."

Chen has served in the Defense Force since 2008.



**FEMA**

## Training Requirements

Each soldier in the VDF must complete the VDF Orientation Course and the VDF Level II Course as soon as possible after enlistment. There is valuable information in these two courses that will give you the basic knowledge of who the VDF is and its functions. In addition, in order to be state-active duty ready, you must complete the FEMA courses IS100, IS200, IS700, and IS800b. The links for all of these courses are on our website at [www.vdf.virginia.gov/vsdftraining.html](http://www.vdf.virginia.gov/vsdftraining.html).

## Commander's conference brings VDF leaders to Fort Pickett

*By Cotton Puryear, Virginia Department of Military Affairs*

FORT PICKETT, Va. — Leaders of the Virginia Defense Force from across the state gathered Feb. 4 at Fort Pickett for their annual commander's conference to discuss the way ahead for the all-volunteer organization.

Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, along with Senior Enlisted Leader Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Green provided an update on the Virginia National Guard as part of the morning session. Maj. Gen. (Va.) John Taylor, commander of the Virginia Defense Force, opened the conference by sharing his vision for the VDF that stressed professionalism and the importance of VDF response packages as part of the Virginia National Guard's overall state response plan.

"We are really proud of all of you, and I am extremely pleased with the Virginia Defense Force and what you do," Long said. "We count on you, and you are important to what we are doing."

When the Virginia National Guard brought more than 350 personnel on state active duty to assist in the Commonwealth's response to Hurricane Irene in late August 2011, the Virginia Defense Force was right there working side by side with the Virginia Army and Air National Guard. VDF personnel worked in the Virginia Emergency Operations Center and the Virginia Guard Joint Operations Center, and Incident Management Assistance Teams deployed forward with units prepositioned for support operations as well as provided communications capability support.

Long acknowledged that without the VDF, he would not have been able to maintain communications with personnel operating in the Eastern Shore area during the storm.

Taylor addressed the VDF leaders in front of a banner reading "Make a Difference," and he stressed that no matter what your rank, members of the VDF could make a difference from wherever they were. He stressed to his leaders to stay positive and to "tell it like it is" to make sure they accurately reported the readiness of their units.

He reported that morale in the VDF is "great," and emphasized the upcoming reorganization of the VDF into a civil affairs command structure. "We have to get ready for the future," Taylor said. "If we don't think about our future, someone else will."

Taylor also stressed the importance of professionalism in the organization and how it was the center of gravity



Maj. Gen. (Va.) John Taylor, commander of the Virginia Defense Force, shares his vision for the all-volunteer organization during their annual commander's conference Feb. 4 at Fort Pickett. (Photo by Cotton Puryear, Virginia Department of Military Affairs)

for the VDF. Programs like continued training in the framework of the National Incident Response System and planned officer and noncommissioned officer development courses were key elements of increasing the level of professionalism in the organization.

Setting standards was another key element to stronger professionalism in the organization, he said. "Good leaders set standards and great leaders enforce them," Taylor said.

The VDF has been assigned specific response packages that can be called up for state active duty in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency response situation. Some of the VDF's capabilities include augment command and control functions and providing security and communications capabilities. Over the next 12 to 24 months, the VDF will change the organizational structure to more closely resemble a civil affairs command, and Taylor said he hopes to grow the number of response packages assigned to the VDF.

Green also recognized the VDF's NCO of the Year and Long promoted Larry Devron to colonel in the VDF. The conference concluded Feb. 5.

The VDF is an all-volunteer force authorized by the Code of Virginia and organized under the Virginia Department of Military Affairs reporting to the Adjutant General of Virginia. From July 2011 until February 2012, the VDF donated:

Training and Administrative Hours - 57,445 hours

Mission Authorized Hours - 10,453 hours

Training and Administrative Man Days - 7,181

Mission Authorized Man Days - 1,307

Using the Virginia average of \$21.45 per hour of volunteer work, this equates to \$1,456,412.10 in support.



## Public Affairs Statement

It cannot be stressed enough how important it is to send a unified message about the Virginia Defense Force to the public. Currently, there are only four (4) approved outlets for Public Affairs information for the VDF: The Virginia National Guard website found at <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/virginiaguard/>, The Bugler, the Virginia Defense Force website found at [www.vdf.virginia.gov](http://www.vdf.virginia.gov), and our new Facebook page found at <https://www.facebook.com/OfficialVDFPage>.

VDF unit sites are under review and webmasters will be notified of the necessary changes that must be made to their sites to be in compliance with the VDF Public Affairs policy and the Virginia National Guard Public Affairs policy. If your brigade, battalion, or unit has an announcement, press release, or other information that needs to reach the public, please contact VDF Public Affairs prior to doing so. For the immediate future, you may send your proposed information to:

[kking-law@cox.net](mailto:kking-law@cox.net) or  
[susan.meredith@vdfmail.us](mailto:susan.meredith@vdfmail.us)

Updated details can be found on the VDF website or Facebook page in the coming weeks and months.

## Article Submission Dates

January 31 Issue - January 5

May 15, 2012 Issue - May 1

July 31 Issue - July 5

October 31 Issue - October 5

### File types accepted:

Word documents or text within an email.

Photos should not be embedded in Word.

Photos should be in as high a resolution as possible.

300dpi is the desired.

There is more detailed information on the website at [www.vdf.virginia.gov/vsdfnews.html](http://www.vdf.virginia.gov/vsdfnews.html)

But don't wait! If you have news you want to share, please send it to Public Affairs (see email addresses below) for review/approval/posting on the VDF website and Facebook page and consideration for inclusion in the Bugler.

Public Affairs Email Contacts:

[kking-law@cox.net](mailto:kking-law@cox.net) or  
[susan.meredith@vdfmail.us](mailto:susan.meredith@vdfmail.us)



## Virginia Defense Force

5001 Waller Road  
Richmond, VA 23230  
[www.vdf.virginia.gov](http://www.vdf.virginia.gov)

**Join** now.

**Use** your skills.

**Learn** new ones.

**Serve** Virginia.

You can print out a copy of the Bugler and mail it!  
Simply fold your sheets in half so that the mailing panel below is showing. Seal the pages for mailing with a piece of tape, place a stamp on it and mail it!

*Do not use staples, the post office will not accept it.*